



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ-CID arrests man for alleged felony forgery

BATON ROUGE – Today, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested an asbestos abatement worker in DeQuincy, Louisiana, on one count of felony forgery.

Miguel Ulloa Ramos, 42, of Honduras, is alleged to have forged an asbestos abatement identification card in order to obtain employment.

Under Department regulations, individuals who conduct asbestos abatement work are required to obtain training and carry credentials which verify asbestos abatement training. Ramos allegedly obtained identification credentials from another person and forged the card to include the alias Rodriguez Reyes. Ramos attempted to present the card to investigators during a routine inspection at a job site. The Department has no documentation that Ramos has ever received asbestos abatement training.

“The purpose of these laws and regulations is to protect asbestos workers as well as the public,” said Jeff Nolan, Manager of DEQ-CID.

If convicted of the crime of forgery, Ramos faces possible deportation or imprisonment for not more than ten years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5 thousand, or both.

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.

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